

Weekly Views

Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Friday, January 23, 2009

"In reaffirming the greatness of our nation, we understand that greatness is never a given. It must be earned." ~ President Barack Obama

All at Camp Summit received a special presentation from Dr. Mann Spitler this week on the perils of substance abuse. Dr. Spitler lost his daughter Manda to heroin addiction and gave a very compelling presentation.

Bloomington Parole District #5 participated in its second clothing drive to help collect Goodwill clothing vouchers for the upcoming spring job fair. Staff collected 18 bags of qualified clothing that equated to \$90 worth of Goodwill vouchers. These vouchers will be used for offenders to find appropriate clothing for job interviews and employment.

32 volunteer Allen County Jail chaplains visited Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility to gain insight on the transition from jail to prison. The chaplains were given an opportunity to learn about offender experiences, programs, and re-entry.

Starke County recently became the 74th Community Corrections Grant Act County and will be interviewing for a Director to coordinate agency programs this month. The program will include Home Detention, Juvenile Alternatives, Work Crew, and Community Service Programs.

Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility's Building Trades class assisted with building a Habitat for Humanity house in Danville, IN. 10 students assisted the crew by salvaging items and evaluating the structure of an abandoned home scheduled for demolition. A new home is planned to be built on the existing lot in the near future.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted the Pendleton Facilities' Community Advisory Board quarterly meeting. Facility staff presented on the therapy dog program "Love on a Leash," which involves special needs offenders, and the facility's participation in Performance Based Standards for Youth Correction and Detention Facilities program.

Indiana State Prison's Summit and West Farms have sold \$16,000 worth of firewood so far this winter. The farms are currently harvesting firewood from storm-damaged trees.

Plainfield Correctional Facility's SITCON team received third place in the Negotiation Competition held at the 19th annual Crisis Negotiation Conference held in San Marcos, TX. Team members coordinated fundraisers to finance the trip and took advantage of the week-long conference designed to enhance crisis intervention techniques.

A staff assembly was held at the Correctional Industrial Facility and approximately 30 staff members attended to discuss and share experiences, events, and issues taking place at the facility.

PEN Products and Indiana State Prison's Summit and West Farms, along with ISO and Westville Correctional, will be working with the Department of Natural Resources cutting, splitting, and wrapping firewood for the Dunes State Park.

Miami Correctional Facility's Honor Guard presented the colors at a recent Indianapolis Ice hockey game. Those representing MCF included: Jeremy Stalhood, Brenda Bowman, Chris Ramberger, Beverly Abney, Joseph Townsend.

Indiana State Prison donated 304 bikes to surrounding communities in 2008 using the Shifting Gears Program.

Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a program to commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Olgen Williams was the featured speaker at the event.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility students were able to watch the inauguration ceremony of President Barack Obama on television and were assigned essays to complete about the ceremony, in which they were to describe the inauguration process, identify key elected officials, and define the roles in government.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Advisory Board members met and were taken on a world tour by Chaplain Bob Nemergut. Father Bob recently spent 6 months on sabbatical and visited Europe, Asia and Africa. He shared his experiences with the board using a presentation complete with music and pictures.

Pendleton Correctional Facility's Shifting Gears bicycle refurbishing operation recently donated bicycles to HVAF (Helping Homeless Veterans and Families) in Indianapolis. This organization provides veterans and their families with assistance necessary to ensure successful independent living in the community.

From the Office of Edwin G. Buss, Commissioner